

Regulation BCBI-R(1): Public Participation in Board Meetings

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 01/11/2023 | **Last Revised Date:** 07/12/2023 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 07/12/2023

All attendees shall remember that while the meetings are open to the public, the purpose of the meeting is to conduct the business of the school system and members of the public are invited to participate only as allowed by Board policy and these procedures. Three minutes shall be the general limit for comments; however, the chair may establish a different time with approval of the Board. Digital media such as PowerPoint presentations or videos are not permitted for playback due to time and technical considerations. Citizens may provide copies of any materials or presentations to the Board through the Board Secretary. Materials may be provided in advance of the meeting. Citizens who seek to address the Board with an issue or concern should first attempt to resolve the matter through the appropriate District or school administrative levels before bringing it to the Board. The appropriate place to review individual employee performance or individual parent complaints is with the school principal, appropriate staff member, or the Superintendent. Citizens are encouraged to follow the appropriate policy and administrative regulations to address such matters.

All comments shall be made in a professional manner that maintains decorum and that is not disruptive to the meeting. Speakers will address the Board of Education. To protect the privacy of students, speakers should refrain from identifying specific students by name unless they have permission, authority, or consent to do so. Issues involving individual employees or individual students and pending litigation are not subjects for public participation.

RULES OF CONDUCT AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCEDURES

Provisions addressing attendee conduct in this policy are “rules of conduct” pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 20-2-58(c)(3)

Conduct by speakers or members of the audience that is disruptive and breaches the orderly process of Board meetings is not permitted.

The following conduct is considered disruptive and may result in removal from the meeting or speaking time may be immediately concluded:

- Persistently speaking out of order, shouting, yelling or making other disruptions that noticeably interfere with the orderly conduct of the meeting.
- Using disruptive objects and props during the meeting.
- Using obscene and defamatory language to cause insult, shock, and anger that results in a breach of the orderly process of the meeting.
- Threatening violence or physical harm to another or to property.
- Resisting or disregarding the directions of law enforcement officers pertaining to security, safety and order.

Any illegal conduct is basis for removal from a Board meeting regardless as to whether it is disruptive to the meeting.

The Board Chair (or presiding officer or designee) is responsible for enforcing this policy. Those attending a meeting or speaking during public participation who violate these procedures will be asked to refrain from disruptive conduct. If any person attending a meeting refuses to follow these rules, further disrupting the meeting, they will be asked to leave and if they refuse, will be escorted from the meeting room. Such serious or repeated violations of the rules of conduct may result in the individual being prohibited from speaking during a board meeting for an appropriate period of time.

By reading and acknowledging acceptance prior to speaking during public participation, speakers attest that they understand and will abide by these procedures.
